

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) A ~~bacterial~~ biologically pure culture comprising:

a biochemical pathway comprising an operon suitable that encodes for selective cleavage of both C-N bonds of carbazole.

21. (Currently amended) A ~~bacterial~~ biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said ~~biochemical pathway comprises an operon comprising~~ comprises a *carAa* gene (SEQ ID NO. 1) and a *carAc* gene (SEQ ID NO. 2) from *Sphingomonas* sp. ATCC No. BAA-487 and a *carAd* gene (SEQ ID NO. 3) from at least one of said *Sphingomonas* sp. ATCC No. BAA-487 and *Pseudomonas resinovorans* CA10.

Claims 22-24 (Canceled)

Serial No.: 10/658,691

25. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 21, wherein said operon further comprises a gene encoding an amidase capable of selective cleavage of the C-N bond of 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol.

26. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said operon comprises at least one gene capable of converting said carbazole to 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol and at least one additional gene capable of selectively cleaving the C-N bond in said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol.

27. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 26, wherein said at least one gene capable of converting carbazole to said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol is a *carA* gene.

28. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 26, wherein said at least one additional gene capable of cleaving the C-N bond in said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol encodes an amidase capable of selective cleavage of the C-N bond of said 2-aminobiphenyl-2,3-diol.

Serial No.: 10/658,691

29. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 28, wherein said at least one additional gene is an *amdA* gene (SEQ ID NO. 4) from *Rhodococcus erythropolis* MP50.

30. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said operon encodes for selective cleavage of both said C-N bonds of said carbazole without further degradation of said carbazole.

31. (New) A biologically pure culture in accordance with Claim 20, wherein said operon comprises active *car* genes consisting of *carAa* (SEQ ID NO. 1), *carAc* (SEQ ID NO. 2), and *carAd* (SEQ ID NO. 3) and one of an *amdA* gene (SEQ ID NO. 4) from *Rhodococcus erythropolis* MP50 and a *triA* gene of *Pseudomonas sp.* NTTLB-12227 (GenBank Accession No. AF312304).